

GOSFORTH URBAN DISTRICT
NORTHUMBERLAND.



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE

Year ended 31st December, 1948



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2017 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b29263104>

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

For the year ending 31st December, 1948.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting to you my Annual Report upon the Vital Statistics and Sanitary work of your District for the year ending 31st December, 1948.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Population. There is an increase of 1,040 in the Registrar General's estimate of the total population from 23,130 in 1947 to 24,170 in 1948.

Birth Rate. The birth rate per 1,000 of the population shows a slight decline, being 16.7 in 1948 and 18.7 in 1947. There were 18 fewer births in 1948 than in 1947. The rate for England and Wales was 17.9 for 1948.

The still-birth rate shows a decrease from 0.51 in 1947 to 0.33 in 1948. There were 12 still births in 1947 and 8 in 1948. The still birth rate per thousand of the population was 0.42 in 1948 for England and Wales.

There were 12 illegitimate births in 1948 compared with 11 in 1947.

General Death Rate. This rate shows an increase from 9.1 per thousand of the population in 1947 to 9.9 in 1948. The rates for England and Wales were 12.0 for 1947 and 10.8 for 1948.

Infantile Mortality. The death rate of all infants under one year of age per 1,000 live births was 24.7. This figure shows a slight increase on that of 1947 which was 23.6. The corresponding figure for England and Wales was 34 in 1948.

There were ten deaths of infants under 1 year of age in 1948, being the same number as the previous year. It is noteworthy that six out of the ten deaths in 1948 occurred in the first month of life and four of these within the first three days.

It is pleasing to observe that the figure of 24.7 for 1948 is below that for England and Wales.

There were no deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under two years of age. The rate for England and Wales per 1,000 of the population was 3.3.

Maternal Mortality. There was one maternal death registered in 1948 as against 0 in 1947 making a maternal mortality rate of 0.0413. The figure for England and Wales was 1.02.

Individual Causes of Death. Heart and circulatory diseases head the list. The number of deaths is 104 in 1948 the same figure as in 1947.

Deaths from Cancer numbered 49 in 1948 compared with 38 in 1947, see details herewith :—

	1948		1947		Increase.
	M.	F.	M.	F.	
Buccal cavity and oesoph (m)					
uterus (f)	3	2	—	3	2
Stomach and Duodenum	5	3	5	1	2
Cancer of breast	—	5	—	5	—
Cancer of other sites	22	9	13	11	7

Deaths from respiratory diseases have declined from 21 in 1947 to 15 in 1948.

Deaths from prematurity were 3 for 1948 against 4 for 1947.

There were three deaths from Diabetes in 1948 there being none in 1947.

Diseases classed as “*other digestive disorders*” showed an increase of 5 in 1948 there being 9 in that year compared with 4 in 1947.

The number of cases of suicide increased to 4 in 1948 as against none in 1947.

Tuberculosis. The mortality rate for all forms of the disease shows an increase; the rate for 1948 being 0.702 compared with the England and Wales figure of 0.51 per thousand civilian population. The rate for this district in 1947 was 0.516 per thousand of the civilian population.

In 1948, 16 deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis were registered and 1 from Non-pulmonary Tuberculosis. In 1947 there were 10 deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis and 2 from Non-pulmonary tuberculosis.

There were 34 new cases notified in 1948 (25 Pulmonary and 9 Non-pulmonary) an increase of 11 in the number notified during 1947 which was 18 Pulmonary and 5 Non-pulmonary.

The total number of “live” cases on the register at the end of the year was 89—of these 70 were Pulmonary and 19 Non-pulmonary. The numbers on the register at the end of 1947 were 88 Pulmonary and 34 Non-pulmonary.

Infectious Diseases. The notifications of these diseases are set out in a separate table of the report.

The number of cases of Scarlet Fever showed a slight increase in 1948 compared with 1947.

There was a considerable increase in the number of cases of Whooping Cough notified, there being 131 in 1948 compared with 63 in 1947.

Notification of Measles showed a slight decline, *i.e.*, 226 in 1948 against 327 in 1947.

There was a big increase in the number of cases of Chickenpox notified, 369 in 1948 and 26 in 1947.

Three cases of Diphtheria were notified in 1948. They were all in the older age groups, one 15, immunised as a child only, one 20, immunised at 3 years

old and one 27, not immunised. It is noted that the two people immunised who contracted Diphtheria at 15 and 20 respectively had not received refresher doses.

Three cases were notified in 1947. There were no deaths in 1947 or 1948.

Diphtheria Immunisation. Under the National Health Service Act, 1946, Diphtheria Immunisation of children of 5—15 years as well as those of 1—5 years, came under the care of the County Council on the 5th July, 1948.

65% of children in the 0—5 age group and 82% of the children in the 5—15 age group have been immunised. There is room for improvement in the figure of 65% of 0—5 age children although it is higher than the present figure in many districts.

Immunisation of children under 5 years of age is done regularly at the Maternity and Child Welfare Centre in the district and by the general practitioners. Early immunisation, at about 8 months old, is being stressed.

Number of children who completed a full course of Primary Immunisation in the Authority's area during the year 1948.				Total number of children who were given a secondary or reinforcing injection.
	Under 5	5-15	Total	
1st Jan.—5th July	125	—	125	103
5th July—31 Dec.	247	1	248	120
<hr/>				
Total number of children who had completed a full course of Immunisation at any time up to 31st Dec. 1948.	1250	2333	3585	
Percentage of children immunised	65%	82%	75%	

Maternity and Child Welfare. This service was transferred to the County Council on 5th July, 1948, and details to this date are given in a separate section of the report.

General. The review of the vital statistics for the year shows that the state of the District's health was very good in 1948 with the exception of Tuberculosis. The mortality rate has risen by 0.186 and the number of Pulmonary new cases notified has increased by 7 and that of Non-pulmonary by 4. The number on the register at the end of the year was, however, less than in the previous year.

It is hoped that as housing conditions improve and overcrowding is eliminated this rate will fall.

There was an increase in the number of cases of Whooping Cough and also of Chickenpox, but no deaths were notified.

We are now reaping the benefit of the vigorous immunisation campaigns of previous years. It is interesting to note that the only positive cases that have occurred have been in young adults with insufficient previous immunisation.

On behalf of Dr. Dickinson who resigned his office as Medical Officer of Health on November 30th, 1948, I wish to thank the Council, the Clerk of the Council, the Health Committee, Mr. Stenger and the Staff of the Health Department for their valuable help and co-operation throughout the year.

The Senior Sanitary Inspector's report follows on page 12.

M. HOPPER,
Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY & SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Particulars of District.

Area (in acres)	1,739
Registrar General's Estimated population	24,170
Number of inhabited houses according to rate books	6,948
Sum represented by Penny rate	£912
Rateable value	£221,886

Extracts from Vital Statistics.

	Males	Females	
Live Births (legitimate)	214	179	393
Live Births (illegitimate)	7	5	12
Still births	5	3	8
Deaths	125	114	239
Birth Rate per 1,000 population			16.7
Still births per 1,000 live and still births			.33
Death rate per 1,000 estimated population			9.9

Deaths from Puerperal Causes.

There was one death from Puerperal Causes.

Death Rates of Infants under 1 year.

All infants per 1,000 live births	24.7
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	Nil.

Deaths.

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	49
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	—
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	—
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	—

Causes of Death.

	Males	Females
ALL CAUSES	125	114
Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers	—	—
Cerebro-spinal fever	1	—
Scarlet Fever	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	8	8
Other Tubercular Diseases	1	—
Syphilitic Diseases	1	1
Influenza	—	—
Measles	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis and Polio-encephalitis	—	—
Acute infectious Encephalitis	—	—
Cancer of Buccal cavity and oesophagus—M	3	
uterus—F		2
Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	5	3
Cancer of Breast	—	5
Cancer of all other sites	22	9
Diabetes	2	1
Intra-cranial vascular lesions	9	15
Heart Disease	37	35
Other diseases of Circulatory System	2	6
Bronchitis	3	3
Other respiratory Diseases	2	1
Pneumonia	3	3
Ulcer of Stomach or duodenum	—	1
Diarrhoea under 2 years	—	—
Appendicitis	—	—
Other Digestive Diseases	4	5
Nephritis	4	4
Puerperal and post-abortion sepsis	—	1
Other maternal causes	—	—
Premature birth	2	1
Congenital malformation, birth injuries	3	1
Suicide	2	2
Road Traffic accidents	4	—
Other violent causes	1	1
All other causes	6	6

TABLE OF BIRTHS & DEATHS FOR THE PAST 20 YEARS (1929-1948)
as compared with Rates of England and Wales.

Year	General Death Rate.		Infantile Mortality Rate.		Birth Rate.	
	Gosforth	England & Wales	Gosforth	England & Wales	Gosforth	England & Wales
1929	9.7	13.4	67.3	74	10.9	16.9
1930	8.2	11.4	32.0	60	9.8	16.9
1931	11.0	12.3	78.0	66	10.6	16.4
1932	9.6	12.0	51.9	65	12.6	15.9
1933	10.27	12.3	27.7	64	11.8	15.0
1934	9.51	11.8	47.6	59	11.4	15.4
1935	9.8	12.1	73.5	57	11.4	15.3
1936	10.6	12.1	76.9	59	12.7	15.4
1937	11.4	12.4	42.9	58	12.9	15.5
1938	11.0	11.6	32.4	53	13.6	15.7
1939	9.78	12.1	18.0	50	13.4	15.5
1940	11.24	14.3	64.4	55	13.6	15.1
1941	10.0	11.6	50.2	53	11.2	15.7
1942	9.47	11.6	13.6	49	14.4	16.3
1943	10.7	12.1	24.1	49	16.4	17.0
1944	10.7	11.6	29.6	46	18.2	18.1
1945	13.1	11.4	36.2	46	16.0	16.5
1946	10.6	11.5	22.8	43	17.6	19.6
1947	9.1	12.0	23.6	41	18.7	21.0
1948	9.9	10.8	24.7	34	16.7	18.3

INFANT MORTALITY.

Coma, Congenital Heart Failure	...	3 weeks
Broncho Pneumonia		6 months
Syncope and convulsions		3 months
Marasmus, Toxaemia of Pregnancy of mother		3 days
Prematurity		1 week
Tuberculosis, broncho pneumonia		6 months
Pink Disease		8 months
Prematurity		3 days
Prematurity		1 day
Cerebral Haemorrhage		3 days

COMPARATIVE TABLE OF TUBERCULOSIS STATISTICS FOR RECENT YEARS,

Year	NEW CASES						DEATHS						No. on Register at end of year.					
	Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary			Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary			Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary		
	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total
	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total
1939	1	9	10	6	3	9	3	3	6	2	2	4	26	36	62	16	16	32
1940	16	11	27	1	1	2	4	2	6	—	2	2	25	27	52	11	10	21
1941	11	2	13	1	4	5	5	1	8	1	2	3	31	26	57	12	13	25
1942	12	8	20	3	2	5	2	3	5	1	—	1	41	32	73	14	14	28
1943	10	6	16	1	8	9	9	5	14	—	1	1	45	38	83	14	21	35
1944	17	18	35	—	5	5	5	3	8	1	1	2	47	37	84	9	17	26
1945	17	10	27	3	6	9	6	4	10	—	1	1	51	39	90	10	22	32
1946	14	8	22	2	4	6	3	6	9	1	1	2	57	38	95	11	24	35
1947	11	7	18	1	4	5	5	5	10	1	1	2	52	36	88	10	24	34
1948	12	13	25	5	4	9	8	8	16	1	—	1	40	30	70	5	12	19

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.
Table of cases as notified in the whole district set out in age groups—Civilians only.

	At all ages.	Under 1 yr.	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-25	25-45	45-65	65 & upwds	D'ths Hosp.
Scarlet Fever	28				3	1	9	7	6	3			24
Diphtheria	3								2	1			2
Whooping Cough	131	14	10	23	18	26	39	1					
Measles	226	8	29	41	29	46	68	5					
Enteric—Typhoid Fever	—												
Paratyphoid Fever	—												
Pneumonia	26			2	1		1	1	1	7	9	4	
Dysentery	—												
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	3							1		1	1	1	3
Erysipelas	11									6	4	1	
Smallpox	—												
Puerperal Pyrexia	1								1				
Ophthalmia Neon	—												
Malaria	—												
Chickenpox	369	8	17	27	18	27	213	43	7	9			1
Poliomyelitis	1									1			1
Totals	799	30	56	93	69	100	329	59	17	28	14	5	31

BACTERIOLOGICAL REPORTS.

	Positive	Negative	Total
Throat swabs for Haemolytic Streptococci	6	18	24
Throat swabs for Diphtheria	10	46	56
Specimens of blood for agglutination	1	1	2
Specimens of blood for Wasserman Reaction	1	166	167
Specimen of sputum for Tuberculosis	35	101	136
	53	332	385

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases.

Deaths.

Age periods	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Under 1 year	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
1-5 years	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
5-10 years	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	—
10-15 years	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
15-20 years	1	2	1	—	—	1	1	—
20-25 years	3	5	—	1	—	1	—	—
25-35 years	5	4	2	—	1	1	—	—
35-45 years	1	—	—	—	1	2	—	—
45-55 years	1	1	—	—	2	1	—	—
65 & over	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	12	13	5	4	8	8	1	—
	25		9		16		1	

MATERNITY & CHILD WELFARE

Superintendent Health Visitor's Report.

Period 1st January to 4th July, 1948.

Notified Births —Notification of Births Act 1907.

Notified by	Live Births	Still Births	Total
Midwives	82	1	83
Maternity Hospitals and Nursing Homes	97	3	100
Total	179	4	183*

* Figures adjusted for inward and outward transfers.

Visits paid by the Health Visitors.

First visits re live births	164
First visits re Still Births	2
Revisits to infants	376
Visits to children 1-5 years	399
Visits to children removed to Gosforth	41
Visits to Notified Infectious Diseases	30
First visits to Expectant Mothers	51
Revisits to Expectant Mothers	40
Post Natal Visits	58
Special Visits	48
Total	1209

No. of simple dressings attended to	194
No. of interviews in Office	280
Amount of Dried Milk etc., sold at cost price	£729 14 0
Amount of Dried Milk etc., given free	£4 13 0

Infant Life Protection (Children & Young Persons Act, 1933, Part 5).

At the beginning of the year there were 5 children under 9 years of age boarded-out under the Act. One child was removed in the month of May, leaving 4 children on the Register at the end of the period under review.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

No. of Sessions held January--June (inclusive)	10
No. of Children who received a Primary Injection	111
No. of Pre-School children who received a ' Boosting ' Injection	102
Total No. of Anti-Diphtheria Injections given	350

Ultra Violet Ray Sessions.

These sessions are held twice weekly during the winter months, and the children are medically inspected at the end of every six week's Course.

No. of Sessions Jan. 5th to March 25th	23
No. of children who received treatment	25
No. of Exposures given	470

Dental Sessions.

No. of Children who had dental inspections	48
No. of children who had a General Anaesthetic for multiple extractions or for minor operative treatment	30

Adoption of Children (Section 7 of the Adoption of Children Act, 1939).

Three children were placed in the care of Adopters with a view to adoption. None of these children were legally adopted within the period of this report.

Premature Births.

Fourteen Premature Births were notified. Seven of these babies were born at home and seven in hospital or Nursing Home. None died during the first 24 hours. Two died under one month. The remaining twelve made very satisfactory progress under the supervision of the Maternity and Child Welfare Department.

Pediculosis.

As in previous years there was close co-operation with the School Nurse—houses where the children were known to be affected were visited, contacts examined, and appropriate treatment recommended.

Home Help Services.

One part-time Home Help was employed by the Council. She attended 8 cases up to July 4th and the amount collected as per assessments was £34 7s. 2d.

Table of Attendances at Child Welfare Sessions—Jan. to June 1948.

Month	Individual 'New' children			Total Attendances			Medical Consul- tations.
	under 1 yr.	1-5 years	Total	under 1 yr.	1-5 years	Total	
January	29	14	43	393	179	572	209
February	36	3	39	377	156	533	211
March	36	7	43	492	169	661	264
April	38	4	42	488	190	678	246
May	30	6	36	353	117	470	171
June	37	3	40	453	187	640	288
Totals	216	37	253	2556	988	3554	1389

No. of individual children who attended in the above 6 months	928
No. of Child Welfare Sessions held during the same period	99
Average attendance per session	36
No. of Medical Child Welfare Sessions	73
Average Medical Consultations per Session	19
No. of Pre-School Medical Sessions	9

Table of Ante-natal & Post-natal Sessions.

Month	Ante-natal 1st Visits	Post-natal 1st Visits	Total Attendances
January	28	6	95
February	25	12	103
March	27	12	116
April	14	8	108
May	18	13	100
June	21	7	108
	133	58	630

No. of Sessions during above period	60
No. of Expectant Mothers on Register	201
Average attendance per Session	10.5

GOSFORTH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.
Annual Report of the Senior Sanitary Inspector.

Dear Dr. Hopper,

I have pleasure in submitting my Annual Report for the year ending 31st December, 1948.

Towards the end of the year Mr. Sinclair, the additional Sanitary Inspector, took up a similar appointment with Whitley Bay U.D.C.

WATER SUPPLY.

The whole of the district has a piped supply, provided by the Newcastle & Gateshead Water Company. Apart from eight premises supplied from a yard tap, all the premises in the district have an internal water supply.

No complaints were received during the year, and no samples were taken by this Authority.

I am again indebted to the Chief Engineer of the Newcastle and Gateshead Water Company for the following figures relating to the results of bacteriological and chemical analysis of samples of water, taken throughout the Company's area, during the year ending 31st December, 1948.

Bacteriological Analysis.

No. of Samples.	Satisfactory.	Fair.	Unsatisfactory.	Bad.
359	349	5	3	2
Percentage of Total	97.21	1.39	0.84	0.56

(**Note** :— subsequent samples taken of the three unsatisfactory and two bad samples were found to be satisfactory).

Definitions :—

Satisfactory samples do not contain presumptive B.Coli in 100 ccs.

Fair samples contain presumptive B.Coli in 100 ccs. but not in 10 ccs.

Unsatisfactory samples contain presumptive B.Coli in 10 ccs. but not in 1 cc.

Bad samples contain presumptive B.Coli in 1cc. and less.

Chemical Analysis (all figures given in parts per million).

Average throughout the year.

Total Solids	170
Chlorine as Chlorides	11.1
Ammonia	0.10
Albuminoid Ammonia	0.09
Nitrogen as Nitrates	1.1
Oxygen absorbed 4 hours	2.59

Hardness.

Total Hardness	121
Permanent Hardness	37
Temporary Hardness	84

DRAINAGE AND DRAIN TESTING.

Notwithstanding that no complaints have been received in connection with the effluent from the City Sewage Works at Fawdon, the position must still be regarded as unsatisfactory.

The work in connection with improving the drainage system and sanitary accommodation at the Greyhound Stadium is still held up. Further representations have been made to the Ministry of Works and to the Stadium authorities and it is expected that the remaining works will be completed this next year.

A considerable amount of work was carried out during the year in connection with the laying of new drains, principally on the new housing estates, and the reconstruction of existing drains.

Details of the work carried out are as follows :—

Number of enquiries made re drainage works	151
Number of water tests carried out	159
Number of smoke tests carried out	52
New drainage constructed	2527 yds.
Drains repaired or reconstructed	655 yds.
Additional gullies provided	10
Old gullies replaced	5

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

Refuse Collection.

The regular weekly collection of refuse and salvage has been maintained throughout the district during the year. The aim of course, is to collect regularly on the same day, and if possible, at the same hour. However, owing to certain factors, such as vehicle breakdowns, weather conditions, illness among the workmen, holidays, this becomes an almost impossible attainment. It should be noted that the district is expanding, more and more houses are being built, and in order to uphold our very efficient service, it will become necessary to employ more collectors.

Refuse Disposal.

All the refuse, apart from the small quantity disposed of to farms, etc., is disposed of by controlled tipping at Brunton Quarry. The Quarry is situated in the Rural District of Castle Ward, the site being shared jointly with that Authority.

I must once more stress the need for acquiring new tipping sites, as the present one cannot be expected to last much longer.

Approaches have been made to neighbouring authorities, with a view to securing suitable tipping sites in those areas, but the problem is common to most authorities and they have little or nothing to offer.

A joint report by the Engineer and Surveyor and myself, dealing with potential sites, within this district, for the disposal of refuse, was submitted to the Health Committee early in the year. The only sites in this district

suitable for the disposal of refuse are as follows :—

- (a) Beaumont Terrace—land east of the Grammar School.
- (b) Disused quarry—Audley Road.

The Council resolved to take steps to acquire these sites for the disposal of refuse.

These two sites, plus the Brunton Quarry Tip, should provide tipping accommodation for approximately another three years.

I submit that the time has arrived when we should seriously consider our present position regarding the disposal of refuse. A long term policy should be the object, involving maybe, mechanical refuse disposal, or the requisition of land outside the district.

Salvage Collection and Disposal.

Sustained efforts by all concerned in the collection of salvage, has had its reward, and I am pleased to record that the income derived from the sale of the various salvable materials, including Ministry of Supply claims, amounted to £1,804. I would like to add a word of praise to the residents of Gosforth for their continued loyalty in this respect. A notable increase in the collection of waste paper was recorded, but in contradistinction, the collection of kitchen waste and textiles, showed a slight decrease. The market for bottles and jars continues to fall.

The following table shows the amount of salvage collected and the income derived from the sale thereof :—

Commodity.	T. C. Q.			Income £ s. d.		
Waste Paper	206	18	2	1318	19	9
Bones	1	0	2	6	2	3
Metal	2	9	1	6	3	2
Kitchen Waste	121	15	0	182	12	6
Bottles and Jars	2	2	0	14	8	6
Textiles	5	8	2	104	10	0
Ministry of Supply Claims—						
Waste Paper	—	—	—	65	0	6
Kitchen Waste	—	—	—	106	10	7
Totals	339	13	3	1804	7	3

Vehicles.

The fleet of vehicles maintained by the Health Department for the purpose of the collection and disposal of refuse, is as follows :—

Make	Reg. No.	Year purchased	Capacity	Type
Vulcan	J.R. 234	1933	6.0 c. yds.	Side loader
Vulcan	J.R. 3521	1935	12.3 „	Rear „
Karrier C.K.3.	J.R. 6223	1937	12.7 „	Rear „
Karrier C.K.3.	J.R. 7867	1938	12.5 „	Rear „
Karrier Bantam	ATY 898	1942	7.0 „	Side „
Karrier C.K.3.	BTY 994	1946	10.0 „	Side „
Commer Van	J.R. 5244	1936	3.7 „	Utility Van

All the vehicles continue to give good service, but when it is considered that some of the vehicles have been on the road continually for 14 and 15 years, it becomes apparent that early replacements will be necessary.

Details showing Costs for year ending 31st March, 1949.

REFUSE COLLECTION.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Wages of refuse collectors	5672	9	3			
National Insurance	206	16	3			
Superannuation (Council's Contribution)	225	13	10			
				6104	19	4
Motor Transport.						
(a) Wages (Mechanics)	219	13	10			
(b) Materials (Repairs)	218	18	3			
(c) Petrol	406	16	10			
(d) Oil	16	8	0			
(e) Tyres	53	10	3			
(f) Licences and Insurances	199	0	0			
Salaries—Transfer	100	0	0			
Miscellaneous Items	2	1	0			
				1216	8	2
Gross Expenditure				7321	7	6

REFUSE DISPOSAL.

Wages	1337	9	0			
National Insurance	45	13	2			
Superannuation—Council's Contribution	60	9	4			
				1443	11	6
Motor Transport.						
(a) Wages (Mechanics)	46	7	10			
(b) Materials (Repairs)	10	12	8			
(c) Petrol	106	0	1			
(d) Oil	4	2	0			
(e) Tyres	49	5	3			
(f) Licences Insurances	61	18	0			
				278	5	10

Brunton Quarry Tip	145	18	4	
Transport of Waste Paper	329	18	9	
Loan Charge	89	1	2	
Miscellaneous Items	38	0	4	
Salaries—Transfer	100	0	0	
Income Tax	6	15	0	
	<hr/>			709 13 7
Gross Expenditure				<u>£2431 10 11</u>

Details showing Income for year ending 31st March, 1949.

REFUSE DISPOSAL.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Sale of Waste Paper	1318	19	9			
Sale of Bones	6	2	3			
Sale of Kitchen Waste	182	12	6			
Sale of Textiles	104	10	0			
Sale of Bottles and Jars	14	8	6			
Sale of Metal	6	3	2			
	<hr/>			1632	16	2
Ministry of Supply Claims						
Waste Paper	65	0	6			
Kitchen Waste	106	10	7			
	<hr/>			171	11	1
Transport of Waste Paper	309	7	2	309	7	2
Hire of Marquee	2	10	0	2	10	0
	<hr/>					
Gross Income				<u>£2116 4 5</u>		

REFUSE COLLECTION.

Special Collection	14	7	5			
Trade Refuse Tickets	3	4	6			
	<hr/>			17	11	11
	<hr/>					
Gross Income				<u>£17 11 11</u>		

	Collection			Disposal			Total		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Gross Expenditure	7321	7	6	2431	10	11	9752	18	5
Gross Income	17	11	11	2116	4	5	2133	16	4
	<hr/>			<hr/>			<hr/>		
Nett Cost	7303	15	7	315	6	6	7619	2	1
Nett Cost per ton		17	4.4			9		18	1.4
	<hr/>			<hr/>			<hr/>		
Nett Cost per premises		19	7.3			10.1	1	0	5.4
Nett Cost per 1000 population	312	2	6.5	13	9	6.1	325	12	0.6
Cost on Rates in the £							8.35		
Estimated Tonnage of Refuse									
Collected							8413 tons		
Estimated Weight (cwts) per 1000									
Population per day							19.7 cwts		
Estimated Weight (cwts) Per									
premises							22.6 cwts		

HOUSING.

The position regarding labour and building materials in connection with the repair of dwelling houses continues to improve. The considerable amount of work carried out by your Sanitary Officers in this direction, may, to some extent, be attributed to this fact.

General concern is felt at the rising cost of repairs etc., and owners of properties are constantly informing me that the cost of repairs is out of all proportion to the rents they receive.

As in previous reports, reference is made to the fact that until the demand for houses by persons inadequately housed has been fulfilled, little hope can be entertained for any work being carried out in connection with clearance and re-development areas.

I am informed by Mrs. Watson, Acting Housing Officer, that during the year, housing accommodation, including exchanges, had been found for 320 families.

The number of applicants on the waiting list at the end of the year was 789.

Rats and Mice Destruction Act, 1919.

Infestation Order, 1943.

The Council again accepted delegated powers under the Rats and Mice Destruction Act, 1919, from the Northumberland County Council.

During the year the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries through circular N.S. 19 announced new financial arrangements for the year ending March, 31st, 1949. The grant-aid now available to local authorities is a consolidated grant of 50 per cent of the approved net expenditure, incurred by each local authority. Availability of this grant depends on the compliance by local authorities with certain conditions, laid down in circular N.S. 19.

The Council now have three trained rodent operatives on their staff, whose services are available to occupiers of business premises at an inclusive charge of 3/- per hour.

The number of complaints received during the year in connection with rodent infestation was 39, involving 60 premises. Primary inspection revealed that 54 of the premises concerned were infested. There was no evidence to support the complaints of infestation in the remaining 6 premises.

The results of the two sewer maintenance treatments carried out during the financial year ending March, 31st 1949 are set out below. The expenditure incurred in these treatments amounted to £77—50 per cent of which, will rank for reimbursement from the Ministry.

Treatment No.	No. of Manholes Baited	Poison Takes		Estimated Kill
		Good	Small	
1	407	2	48	405
2	375	5	89	780

Verminous Premises.

During the year the department was called upon to deal with cockroaches, fleas, bugs, moths and wood beetles.

There was a notable decrease in the number of complaints received in connection with the infestation of the bed-bug, the chief pest trouble being the cockroach.

Effective results in the eradication of these insects have been obtained by the application of the following insecticides—Zaldecide containing D.D.T.; D.D.T. powder plus Pyrethrum and Gammexane.

In all cases, revisits were made to premises concerned, and when found necessary, further treatment carried out, so as to ensure that the premises were free from vermin.

No charge is made for this service, which is carried out by your Sanitary Officers.

Factories Act, 1937.

There are 63 registered factories in the district, 42 mechanical factories and 21 non-mechanical factories.

The following table gives in detail the number of visits and notices served to remedy defects found in course of inspection of the various factories in the district :—

Factories	No. on Register	No. of Inspections	Notices Served
Mechanical	42	109	8
Non-Mechanical	21	52	4
Total ..	63	161	12

Particulars	Defects found	Defects remedied	Referred by H.M. Inspector
Want of cleanliness	3	3	
Sanitary Conveniences			
(a) Unsuitable	10	7	1
(b) Not separate for Sexes	—	—	1
Structural Defects	3	3	—
Total	16	13	2

FOOD INSPECTION. Milk Supply.

Dairies and Cowsheds.

Two cow-keepers, who are also retailers of milk within this district, remained on the register, namely A. F. Moralee, Red House Farm, Fawdon, and J. R. Oliver, Home Farm, Gosforth. The number of milch cows kept at these farms is approximately 53, the greater number being the "T.T." herd at Red House Farm.

There are two registered dairies in the district, and three premises, from which milk is sold in sealed containers only.

Frequent and regular visits have been made to dairies and cowsheds, which generally, were found to be satisfactorily maintained. Milk floats and wagons also received periodical inspection.

Milk and Dairies Order, 1926.

The following table gives particulars taken from the register as at 31st December, 1948.

No. of persons registered as cow-keepers	2
No. of premises registered as cow-sheds	2
No. of milch cows kept on registered premises	53
No. of cow-keepers retailing milk	2
No. of persons registered as milk purveyors within the area	5
No. of milk purveyors with premises outside area, retailing milk within the area	13
No. of premises registered as dairies	2

Milk (Special Designations) Order 1936.

The following are particulars of licences granted under the above order.

To sell Tuberculin-Tested Milk	6
To sell Accredited Milk	1
To sell Pasteurized Milk	1

Bacteriological Examination of Milk.

The following table gives the results of samples of milk submitted to the County Laboratory for Bacteriological and Biological Examination :—

Grade of Milk	B. Tuberculosis			Methylene Blue			Phosphatase				
	Pos.	Neg.	Total	Un- satis- factly.	Satis- factly.	Total	% Satis- factly.	Un- satis- factly.	Satis- factly.	Total	% Satis- factly.
Ungraded	-	11	11	12	51	63	80.95				
Accredited	1	4	5	8	12	20	60.00				
Tuberculin Tested	-	10	10*	7	23	30	76.70				
Pasteurised				7	13	20	65.00		14	14	100.00
Heat treated				2	12	14	85.71	1	11	12	91.66
Totals	1	25	26	36	111	147	75.56	1	25	26	96.15

* Includes 1 inconclusive result—animal died.

These figures generally, compare favourably with those of 1947, 25% of the total samples taken, failing to pass the Methylene Blue Reduction Test, as against 36% the previous year.

One sample out of 26 examined was found positive to B. Tuberculosis. The "positive" sample was reported to the Divisional Inspector of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, who was asked to undertake an investigation of the herd. As a result of the investigation, one cow was slaughtered under the Tuberculosis Order, 1938.

FOOD PREMISES.

Frequent and regular visits have been made to the various food premises in the district during the year.

No effort has been spared to bring all food premises, at least, up to the standard as laid down in Section 13, Food and Drugs Act, 1938, particular attention being paid to the provision of wash-hand basins, with hot and cold water laid-on, for the use of the employees.

Notices issued by the Central Council for Health Education, drawing the attention of all food handlers to the vital necessity for the washing of hands, before leaving a toilet, have been placed in all sanitary conveniences in food premises.

This precaution should go far to exclude the risk of contamination of food, by food poisoning organisms.

Registration of Food Premises.

During the year, 6 applications were made to this Council for the registration of premises under Section 14, Food and Drugs Act, 1938, for the sale only of ice-cream. The premises were duly registered, bringing the total of registered food premises up to 56.

Public Health (Meat) Regulations 1924-35.

As in previous years, all slaughtering of food animals is carried out in Government abattoirs situated in the City and County of Newcastle upon Tyne.

Representations were made to the contractor responsible for the transportation of meat into this district, drawing his attention to the unsuitability of the vehicle in use. I am now pleased to state that following my representations, a new vehicle, with an all-metal insulated body, is now in operation.

UNSOUND FOOD.

The following foodstuffs were voluntarily surrendered and condemned as unfit for human consumption.

24 $\frac{3}{4}$ stones Home killed Beef.	43 (only) Pork Pies.
62 stones Imported Beef.	2 tins Potted Meat.
39 pounds Liver Sausage.	28 tins Meat.
10 $\frac{1}{4}$ stones Wet Fish.	95 tins Fish.
2 $\frac{1}{2}$ pounds Black Pudding.	21 tins Fish Paste.

1 pound Jellied chicken.
 1 pound Polony.
 54 tins Vegetables.
 52 tins Fruit.
 63 tins Jams and Marmalades.
 248 tins Evaporated Milk.
 8 tins Condensed Milk.
 13 jars Pickles.
 28 jars Sandwich Spread.

29 tins Soup.
 27 tins Broths.
 1 pound Butter Beans.
 123 pounds Cereals.
 1½ pounds Biscuits.
 5 packets Dried Egg.
 1 bottle Tomato Sauce.
 13 packets Savoury Stuffing.
 100 tins Peas and Beans.

ADULTERATION OF FOOD.

The Northumberland County Council through its Weights and Measures Department, is responsible for the taking of samples of food under the various statutes.

I am indebted to Mr. Arlidge, Chief Weights and Measures Inspector, for informing me that 128 samples were procured during the year, in the Urban District of Gosforth. The articles sampled included the following :—

Apple Juice.	Cider.	Mixed Spice.
Beef and Pork Sausage.	Coffee and Chicory	Patented Medicines.
Beef & Pork Sausage	Essence.	Rum.
Meat.	Fish Cakes.	Scented Cachous.
Beef Suet.	Gelatine.	Table Cream.
Blackcurrant Pastilles.	Gin.	Table Jellies.
Butter.	Gravy Browning.	Tea.
Caramel.	Jaffa Juice.	Vinegar.
Dessert Powder.	Milk.	Whisky.
Christmas Puddings.	Mineral Waters.	

Only two samples were adversely reported upon by the Public Analyst, and prosecutions were instituted in respect of each of these.

All samples of milk were found to comply with the standard laid down by the Sale of Milk Regulations, 1939.

GENERAL INSPECTIONS.

A perusal of the following tables will give some idea of the number of visits made in connection with matters coming within the purview of this Department, and also with regard to sanitary improvements effected.

TABLE 1.

No. of Visits.

Dwelling Houses (Nuisances etc.)	1925
Housing Applications	198
Drainage :— Enquiries	151
Smoke Tests	52
Water Tests	159
Verminous Premises—Visits and Re-visits	116
Infectious Diseases—Visits and Re-visits	72
Infectious Diseases—Disinfections	46

Rodent Infestations	410
Factories and Workplaces	165
Stables	4
Food Premises	413
Cowsheds, Dairies etc.	36
Places of Public Entertainment	21
Supervision over Refuse Collection	38
Movable Dwellings	20
Ditches and Streams	36
Miscellaneous	50
	<hr/>
	3912
	<hr/>

TABLE II.
Sanitary Improvements Effected.

Provided with Damp Proof course	9
Roofs repaired	63
Floors repaired, ventilated etc.	38
Plastered walls repaired	68
Plastered ceilings repaired	19
Windows repaired, made to open etc.	9
Sashcords renewed	27
Foodstores provided, repaired etc.	5
Staircases repaired	5
Doors repaired, rehung or renewed	14
Firegrates repaired, reset or renewed	3
Chimneys or chimney stacks repaired	8
New sinks provided and fixed	7
Sink wastes repaired or renewed	7
External walls pointed	20
Internal walls rendered with waterproofing materials	30
Ovens repaired or renewed	3
Eaves-gutters repaired or renewed	87
Fall-pipes repaired or renewed	16
Yard paving repaired	4
Obstructed drains cleansed	15
Obstructed W.C's cleansed	4
Yard gullies provided and connected to drains	4
W.C. basins renewed	25
W.C. cisterns repaired or renewed	17
W.C. structure repaired	22
Ashpits abolished	2
Dustbins provided	182
	<hr/>
	713
	<hr/>

TABLE III.
HOUSING.

1. Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year.	
(1) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	331
(2) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for habitation	Nil
(3) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	308
2. Remedy of defects without service of formal notices.	
Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by Local Authority or its officers	218
3. Action under Statutory Powers.	
Proceedings under Public Health Acts.	
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	41
(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—	
(a) By Owners	39
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	—
	39

CONCLUSION.

I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to my additional Inspector, Mr. R. W. Sinclair, who has proved himself a very capable and conscientious colleague.

My sincere thanks are due to the clerical staff, for their help and for the efficient manner in which they have carried out the duties assigned to them.

The Cleansing Foreman, Mr. S. Smith, who as usual, has worked very hard and the outside staff, are to be congratulated for the manner in which they have carried out their duties, and also for the tremendous amount of work accomplished.

Yours faithfully,

GEORGE STENGER,

Senior Sanitary Inspector.

